

App. No. 09/630,479
Reply dated Dec. 4, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated Sept. 4, 2003

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-22 are presently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

II. STATEMENT REGARDING INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant's representative appreciates the courtesy of the telephonic interview on December 2, 2003, wherein the Examiner identified U.S. Patent No. 5,781,302 to Grow et al., and indicated that the Office would issue a superceding Office Action, the substance of which would be based on Grow et al.

On December 3, 2003, the Examiner indicated that a complete response could be made to the September 4, 2003 Office Action by traversing the rejection and re-presenting the claims as they stood on appeal.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection inasmuch as the pending claims define patentable subject matter over Milnes, either alone or in combination, as set forth in the non-final Office Action of September 4, 2003. Applicant also traverses all assertions of fact made by the Office predicated on "common knowledge." MPEP § 2144.03.

IV. RESERVATION OF RIGHT

Applicant reserves the right to further respond to the Office Action of September 4, 2003 should the Examiner reconsider and retain, in whole or in part, the rejections based on Milnes. Applicant predicates this reservation on the understanding that the rejections based on Milnes will become moot based on the new grounds based on Grow et al.

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V. CONCLUSION

For at least the above-cited reasons, all claims pending in the present application are now believed to be allowable. Early receipt of a Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Date: December 4, 2003

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